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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
PIERRE BLANCHARD ET AL : ATTN: NEW APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: 09/806,473 :
FILED: April 9, 2001 :
FOR: NOVEL RHEOLOGY REGULATORS :
SUCH AS GROUND NATURAL CALCIUM :
CARBONATES OPTIONALLY TREATED WITH :
A FATTY ACID OR SALT AND THEIR USE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

a' 7. (Amended) A rheology regulator according to Claim 1, characterised in that it is a case of a natural calcium carbonate treated by means of at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt chosen from amongst the salts of calcium, magnesium, zinc or a mixture thereof and more particularly using stearic acid or its calcium salt in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.